

## **Public Notice – Environmental Project**

### **PURPOSE OF NOTICE:**

The Department of Environmental Quality seeks public comment on the state's response to the environmental aspects of a proposed project located in Accomack County, Virginia.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:**

February 19, 2010 to March 19, 2010

### **TYPE OF RESPONSE**

Federal Consistency Determination

DEQ is reviewing a federal action to determine if it is consistent with the U.S. Coastal Zone Management Act. The act seeks to protect the quality of air, water or other natural resources in Virginia's coastal area.

### **NAME OF AGENCY PROPOSING THE PROJECT:**

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) prepared a Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for the Shoreline Restoration and Infrastructure Protection Program (SRIPP) at Wallops Flight Facility. The U.S. Minerals Management Service and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are cooperating agencies for the PEIS.

The purpose of the SRIPP is to reduce the potential for damage to, or loss of, existing NASA, U.S. Navy, and Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport assets on Wallops Island from wave impacts associated with storm events. The preferred alternative involves an initial construction phase with follow-on renourishment cycles. The initial phase would include two distinct elements:

- Extending Wallops Island's existing rock seawall a maximum of 4,600 feet (ft) south of its southernmost point.
- Placing sand dredged from Unnamed Shoal A, located offshore in Federal waters, on the Wallops Island shoreline. An estimated 3,199,000 cubic yards (yd3) of fill would be placed along the shoreline starting at camera stand Z-100, which is located approximately 1,500 ft north of the Wallops Island-Assawoman Island property boundary and extending north for 3.7 miles.

Each renourishment fill volume is anticipated to be approximately 806,000 yd3. The renourishment cycles would include placing sand on the Wallops Island shoreline taken from either of three sources: the beach on the north end of Wallops Island, or from one of two sand shoals (Unnamed Shoal A or Unnamed Shoal B) located in Federal waters. The renourishment cycle is anticipated to occur every 5 years, with a total of 9 renourishment cycles over the 50-year life of the SRIPP. The initial fill plus the total fill volume over nine renourishment events would result in approximately 10,453,000 yd3 of sand being placed on the shoreline.

Under Alternative Two, the seawall extension would be the same as described under the preferred alternative. In addition, a groin would be constructed at the south end of the Wallops Island shoreline and would involve the placement of rocks in a linear structure perpendicular to the shoreline at approximately 1,460 ft north of the Wallops Island-Assawoman Island border. The structure would be approximately 430 ft long and 50 ft wide. Construction of the groin would result in more sand being retained along the Wallops Island beach, so less fill would be required for both the initial nourishment and renourishment volumes as compared to the preferred alternative.

Under Alternative Three, the seawall extension would be the same as described under the preferred alternative. In addition, a single nearshore breakwater would be constructed at the south end of the Wallops Island shoreline and would involve the placement of rocks in a linear structure parallel to the shoreline. The breakwater structure would be constructed approximately 750 ft offshore. The breakwater would be approximately 90 300 ft long and 110 ft wide. Construction of the breakwater would result in more sand being retained along the Wallops Island beach, so less fill would be required for both the initial nourishment and renourishment volumes compared to the preferred alternative.

A federal consistency determination has been submitted for this proposal which finds it consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program (VCP).

#### **HOW TO COMMENT:**

DEQ accepts comments from the public by e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments must include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ within the comment period. The public may review the project documents at DEQ's Central Office in Richmond.

#### **CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

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